

Odor Plume Talking Points

Protection of public health and safety is of utmost importance and all community concerns are taken seriously.

When the team was apprised of concerns regarding odors potentially associated with the Deepwater Horizon incident, they requested a detailed analysis from NOAA's Atmospheric Research Laboratory and the Emergency Response Division to provide air dispersion modeling to properly address the issue.

The oil is considered to be a Sweet Louisiana Crude with low sulfur content, (less than 1 percent sulfur compounds).

The analytical team examined the likely extent of odor plumes that might be detectable over the period of interest. They found no credible scenario which would explain an odor plume extending beyond 50 miles from the source. The best estimate of the extent of the odor plume is less than 15 miles from the edge of the fresh oil.

Odor plume predictions are not precise. There is a margin of error in these estimates.